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CTD: SRF7- ECOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

SUB-DOMAIN:1. ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY (INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE)

PANEL TITLE:

INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE: PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Indigenous People and their traditional knowledge about the protection and management of environment are facing multiple challenges, primarily because of developmental activities, national and international policies of resource management and above all dismissal of experiential knowledge for want of scientific validity. Those of us working with indigenous groups, or have lived for long amidst them, understand the value of Indigenous Environmental Knowledge (IEK) or Traditional Ecological/Environmental Knowledge (TEK). It is only recently that in some scientific forums, these are being acknowledged and valued, for playing a significant role in environmental protection. As anthropologists and environmentalist, we understand that these are treasure troves to be preserved for generations. Globally, Indigenous People have also now raised their voices for sustainability of their environment with their local ecological knowledge. Traditional agricultural practices, land management, water conservation, forest management, maintenance of Sacred Groves is all part of precious knowledge that helps us tackle issues of food security that is threatening countries across the world because of climatic change activates, declining green cover, and rising carbon emissions because of unsafe industrial practices. Indigenous knowledge comprising of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK), Ethnoecology, Local Knowledge, Folk Knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, Traditional Environmental Knowledge (TEK) or Ecological Knowledge, Peoples Science or Rural Peoples Knowledge need to be discussed to bring their value in the public domain (Ellen, Parkes. et.al. 2000).

Through this panel Scholars are asked to share Indigenous people's perception about environment protection and its management through Case Studies from an ethnographic lens and applied Multidisciplinary approach. There is scope for the Indigenous Scholars as well as the Auto Ethnographers, especially in diverse part of India as well as other parts of South Asian Countries to come together and share their ecological knowledge.

Keywords: Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Food Security, Land Management, Water Conservation, Forest Management

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